

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

Craig C. White

Appl. No.: To be assigned

Filed: November 24, 2003

For: **Racquet Strand Clip**

Art Unit: To be assigned

Examiner: To be assigned

Atty. Docket: 966650/00001A

Information Disclosure Statement

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Listed on accompanying Form PTO-1449 are documents that may be considered material to the examination of this application, in compliance with the duty of disclosure requirements of 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98.

Where the publication date of a listed document does not provide a month of publication, the year of publication of the listed document is sufficiently earlier than the effective U.S. filing date and any foreign priority date so that the month of publication is not in issue. Applicants have listed publication dates on the attached PTO-1449 are based on information presently available to the undersigned. However, the listed publication dates should not be construed as an admission that the information was actually published on the date indicated.

Applicants reserve the right to establish the patentability of the claimed invention over any of the information provided herewith, and/or to prove that this information may not be prior art, and/or to prove that this information may not be enabling for the teachings purportedly offered.

This statement should not be construed as a representation that an exhaustive search has been made, or that there does not exist information more material to the examination of the present patent application. The Examiner is specifically requested not to rely solely on the material submitted herewith. It is further understood that the Examiner will review art of record in all 35 U.S.C. § 120 priority documents.

- ☒ 1. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed within three months of the U.S. filing date OR before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits. No certification or fee is required.
- ☐ 2. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed more than three months after the U.S. filing date AND after the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits, but before the mailing date of a Final Rejection or Notice of Allowance.
- ☐ a. I hereby certify that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(1).
- ☐ b. I hereby certify that no item of information in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application or, to my knowledge after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(2).
- ☐ c. Attached is our Check No. _____ in the amount of \$210.00 in payment of the fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p).
- ☐ 3. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed more than three months after the U.S. filing date and after the mailing date of a Final Rejection or Notice of Allowance, but before payment of the Issue Fee. It is hereby requested that the Information Disclosure Statement be considered. Attached is our Check No. _____ in the amount of \$130.00 in payment of the fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(i)(1).
- ☐ a. I hereby certify that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(1).
- ☐ b. I hereby certify that no item of information in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application or, to my knowledge after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(2).
- ☐ 4. Relevance of the non-English language document(s) is discussed in the present specification.
- ☐ 5. The document(s) was/were cited in a corresponding foreign application. An English language version of the foreign search report is attached for the Examiner's information.
- ☐ 6. A concise explanation of the relevance of the non-English language document(s) appears below:
- ☐ 7. The Examiner's attention is directed to co-pending U.S. Patent Application No. _____, filed _____, which is directed to related technical subject matter. The identification of this U.S. Patent Application is not to be construed as a waiver of secrecy as to that application now or upon issuance of the present application as a patent. The Examiner is respectfully requested to consider the cited application and the art cited therein during examination.
- ☐ 8. Copies of the documents were cited by or submitted to the Office in Application No. _____, filed _____, which is relied upon for an earlier filing date under 35 U.S.C. § 120. Thus, copies of these documents are not attached. 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(d).

It is respectfully requested that the Examiner initial and return a copy of the enclosed PTO-1449, and to indicate in the official file wrapper of this patent application that the documents have been considered.

A duplicate copy of this pleading is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

STEPTOE & JOHNSON PLLC

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Megan D. Dortenzo". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Megan" being the most prominent part.

Megan D. Dortenzo
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Date: Nov 24, 2003

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FORM PTO-1449 INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT				ATTY. DOCKET NO. 966650/00001A		APPLICATION NO. To be assigned	
				APPLICANT Craig c. White			
				FILING DATE November 24, 2003		GROUP To be assigned	
U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS							
EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUB-CLASS	FILING DATE
	AAI	4,399,993	August 23, 1983	Melin	273	73	August 17, 1981
	ABI	4,408,760	October 11, 1983	Ferrari	273	73	November 9, 1981
	ACI	4,844,478	July 4, 1989	Kessler	273	411	May 24, 1988
	ADI	4,880,234	November 14, 1989	Salisbury	273	73	July 18, 1988
	AEI	5,143,370	September 1, 1992	Richards	273	26	January 6, 1992
	AFI	5,993,337	November 30, 1999	Janes et al.	473	539	May 8, 1998
	AGI	6,234,922	May 22, 2001	White	473	543	July 3, 1999
	AHI	6,386,999	May 14, 2002	White	473	543	April 2, 2001
	AII						
	AJI						
	AKI						
	ALI						
	AMI						
FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUB-CLASS	TRANSLATION
	ANI						Yes No
	AOI						Yes No
	API						Yes No
OTHER (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.)							
	AQ						
	AR						
	AS						
EXAMINER					DATE CONSIDERED		
EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to Applicant.							